



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **SHRIMP FISHERY TO RE-OPEN OFF TEXAS ON JULY 15, 2005**

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will open to shrimp trawling at 30 minutes after official sunset, local time, on July 15, 2005, corresponding to the time Texas opens its waters to shrimp trawling.

The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that might otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

The Texas closure in federal waters ranges from 45 to 90 days. The closing and/or opening dates of the Texas closure are based on the results of biological sampling by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). NMFS opens federal waters off Texas when the state of Texas opens its territorial waters. Texas opens state waters based on projections of when the mean size of

shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. TPWD has projected the criteria to end the Texas closure will be met on July 15, 2005.

NMFS is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NMFS provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.